

Memorandum:

TO: Members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Coreen M. Bergami BSN RN ADS MA

DATE: March 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Written Testimony on Senate Bill 353

Good Afternoon, Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and distinguished members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on SB 353 AN ACT CONCERNING OPIOID ABUSE.

We are writing in support of this bill because of the serious opioid related deaths in our state and would like greater access to the underserved to offer options for relapse prevention and to increase engagement in treatment.

We are proposing to expand and clarify our existing practice law to more effectively serve the population at risk.

The **National Acupuncture Detox Association (NADA)** ear acupuncture protocol is a safe, inexpensive public health process that can assist those in need. The current law is restrictive since it can only be performed in a state licensed substance abuse facility.

By expanding the law, NADA trained independent licensed clinicians may provide the NADA protocol without restriction of setting or supervision. We have significant addiction training to effectively use the NADA protocol as adjunctive treatment.

We are also proposing to allow a non-licensed NADA trained practitioner to perform community acudetox under the indirect supervision an MD, acupuncturist, or a NADA trainer. Many vulnerable populations suffer from conditions beyond substance abuse and benefits of the NADA protocol have been substantiated through research. The NADA protocol can benefit all our at risk populations and be an effective tool in recovery.

Promoting Wellness is one of our functions as clinicians and this modality does that on so many levels.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

Coreen M. Bergami BSN RN ADS MA